



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

Date and Time of Meeting: February 27, 2014
11:00 a.m.

The SILC will be reviewing Nevada's State Plan for Independent Living at three meetings held on February 20, 2014, February 27, 2014 and, if needed, March 6, 2014.

These meetings will be a Video Conference between the following:

Reno: Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
999 Pyramid Way
Sparks, NV 89431
(775) 353-3599

Las Vegas: Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center
6039 Eldora Ave., Suite C
Las Vegas, NV 89146
(702) 257-8150

To join this meeting by phone, dial 1-888-363-4735 then enter the Access Code 1228133 when prompted to.

I. Welcome and Introductions Lisa Bonie, Chairperson

Members Present: Lisa Bonie, Kacy Curry, Melaine Mason, Rade Zone.

Excused Members: Reggie Bennett, Lisa Ford.

Public Present: Jeff Beardsley, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center; Bob Donnelly, CARE Chest; Mary Evilsizer, Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living; Anita Frantz, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center; Whitney Hobbs, interpreter; Samantha King, Nevada PEP; Reggie Mazingo; Rod Voris, interpreter; Scott Youngs, Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities.

Aging and Disability Services Staff Present: Julie Balderson, Tina Gerber-Winn, Vicki Kemp, John Rosenlund, Diane Scully, Laura Valentine.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Bonie welcomed everyone and said that due to an appointment, she will have to leave at 12:45 p.m. and the meeting will need to end at that time.

II. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

Ms. Frantz asked about the status of recruiting new members to the Council. Ms. Bonie said that has been put on hold until the revision of the SPIL has been completed.

Ms. Mason said one of the objectives of the SPIL is to coordinate town hall meetings. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is scheduling four to five such meetings in the rural areas for the last week in March and the first week in April. Once the flyers are produced she will distribute them to Council members. VR is also working on a media spot and Ms. Mason will send more information on that when it's completed.

Ms. Gerber-Winn said on March 12, 2014 at 9 a.m. there will be a meeting with the Legislative Subcommittee on services for seniors, people with special health care needs and veterans on interpreter services and services for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. It will be a webcast via the Legislative website.

III. **Review and Possible Revision of the State Plan for Independent Living for Nevada FY 2014-2016 (For Possible Action)** (Please review a copy of the plan before the meeting. The plan will be available by calling Aging and Disability Services Division at: 775-688-1930 ext. 2201 or by e-mail at rosenlund@adsd.nv.gov).

Ms. Bonie said since there are interpreters in Las Vegas they will skip to Goal 4 because it addresses deaf interpreters.

Each goal and objective was read and discussed with the revision noted in *italics* following the original text.

- **Goal 3** – Support a statewide network of centers for independent living (CILs), operated by consumer-controlled, cross-disability, nonprofit agencies that are operated within local communities by individuals with disabilities and that provide an array of IL services, and strengthen this network by: creating a subcommittee to research best practices of other CIL's throughout the nation and develop a statewide survey on Independent Living services being provided and needed.

Objective 3.1 – Explore options to add fee-for-service operations to the menu of CIL services.

Objective 3.2 – Explore options to identify best practices used by successful CILs and determine if they can be adapted in Nevada.

- **Goal 4** – Support improvement, expansion and coordination of disability services throughout Nevada by: coordinating the transitions of children and youth with disabilities from early intervention to school, and from school to adult life; making all disability services more easily and universally accessible. In addition, expanding the resources available to blind adults in Nevada and improve the supports available to deaf Nevadans. Establish a collaboration with the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD) to review Nevada's Strategic Plan for People with Disabilities and the updated review completed 2010 to determine Nevada's next step to ensure statewide Olmstead compliance.

Goal 4 – Support improvement, expansion and coordination of disability services throughout Nevada.

Objective 4.1 – Create opportunities for Independent Living (IL) professionals to partner with students in the school transition process from Early Intervention to school, and from school to adult life. Coordination of Independent Living professionals within the school district process wherein Independent Living services becomes an active partner in the identified needs of the individual.

Both the NNCIL and SNCIL are active in transition, informing people of self-advocacy and resources available. The centers for independent living deal more with high school students transition to adult life, whereas Early Intervention Services (EIS) has a program in place for younger students.

Mr. Rosenlund said the SILC needs to determine what they want to accomplish.

Ms. Mason suggested splitting this into two objectives:

4.1) Create opportunities for Independent Living professionals to partner with students in the school transition process from EIS to school and school to adult life.

4.2) Coordination of Independent Living professionals within the school district process wherein IL services becomes an active partner in the identified needs of the individual.

The question of who to partner with was asked. Ms. Gerber-Winn said at this time there are no formal partnerships between IL and school districts. Ms. Mason said VR does have a formal agreement with school districts and actively participates at the schools.

Mr. Youngs suggested deciding which group – EIS to school or school to adult life – is more in need of the council's assistance. Ms. King said the transition from EIS to school is established but there's very little for school to adult life.

Ms. Balderson pointed out that when a deaf child transitions out of EIS into school, the EIS specialist is no longer available to them, and home facilitation is removed. She suggested the SILC make a recommendation that EIS looks at their practice when it comes to facilitating communication access and language development for deaf children.

Mr. Beardsley suggested expanding services to the blind to include those who are deaf and blind as they need services also.

Ms. Bonie asked if anyone would like to formulate wording for this objective. Ms. Mason suggested, "Coordinating the transition of youth with disabilities from school to adult life."

Ms. Valentine asked if they want to include adults in addition to youth? Ms. Mason said the focus is on youth and working with them as they transition to adult life.

Ms. Gerber-Winn said the SILC isn't likely to coordinate the activities of the children and suggests the council come up with a solution like VR has to work with the school districts to increase the awareness of children leaving school about independent livings services. This could be through the IL program with the CIL's helping with life skills.

Ms. Mason said she thinks that included in this should be some wording to formalize the incorporation of contracts between partners, for example between CIL's and school districts.

ADSD staff was directed to work on the wording for this objective relevant to what the SPIL is doing for review at the next meeting.

Objective 4.2 – Expand the availability of community-based training and supports for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Ms. Kemp contacted the Blind Center of Nevada in Southern Nevada and found there are large gaps in all services. Their funding comes from ADSD and fundraisers, and they are the largest recycler of assistive technology devices. Services are free and include in-home inspections, moving people to accessible and adequate housing, and assisting people apply for additional services such as Medicare and Medicaid. She also spoke to the National Federation for the Blind who identified the largest gap as being services for people 55 and older. Their philosophy is to train blind people to help other blind people.

They would be interested in working with the SILC once the Council decides what they want to do.

Mr. Mozingo said his experience is that there are no services in Northern Nevada and no services for people under 55 years of age.

Ms. Bonie noted the NNCIL does occasionally get requests for travel training but it's not offered.

Ms. Mason said they need to go to the legislature and request more funding in order to assist those under 55. Currently VR runs out of funds for the 55 and over program about eight months into the year and then dips into other funds to make it the rest of the way.

She suggested that first there needs to be a coordinated resource list. What is available needs to be identified so the Council will know what's out there and what is still needed.

Mr. Youngs suggested going after funding first. Ms. Mason said the life skills program already exists and it could go forward if funding was requested.

Ms. Gerber-Winn suggested this objective read, "Re-establish and study the expansion to assure the availability of community based training for individuals who are blind, visually impaired or deaf blind."

Ms. Bonie said it should include re-establishing funding cuts and pursue what the needs are.

ADSD staff was asked to review the notes and fine tune the wording.

Objective 4.3 – Monitor implementation and use of the accessible housing database to ensure it is a functional tool for persons seeking accessible housing.

Ms. Frantz asked if there is a housing registry. She said she thought there was resistance from property owners and landlords. Ms. Evilsizer said there is a registry but it's highly ineffective. Ms. Gerber-Winn said the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) portal does have a housing registry but the information is not up to date because of the lack of cooperation from property owner and landlords. There is a statute that requires property owners who receive federal housing funds to provide this information to ADSD quarterly. However, there is nothing in place to monitor it. Basically, the registry is in place but it's difficult to get and provide accurate information.

Ms. Kemp said ADSD is partnering with the Housing Division who is actually tasked with having an online registry. It will take some time to get everything in place but it is in the works.

Mr. Beardsley wanted to clarify if this is for affordable or accessible housing. Ms. Gerber-Winn said it's for both. Mr. Youngs added that often times people are looking for both.

Ms. Mason said this is in the SPIL because it was put in three years ago but since then things have changed and it's been passed to other agencies. Does the Council want to oversee what these other agencies are doing or invite them to give updates and presentations to the Council? Ms. Frantz said the SILC isn't big enough to monitor these things.

Ms. Bonie suggested removing this objective and in the future invite representatives from the agencies working on this to SILC meetings to provide updates. This was agreed upon by the Council.

Objective 4.4 – Expand the availability and use of qualified interpreters in medical and legal setting.

Mr. Beardsley said there are some serious problems with non-certified interpreters being hired.

Ms. Gerber-Winn said perhaps the objective should relate towards improving the availability of qualified interpreters as a whole. ADSD is tasked with doing that and is working to increase staff to better monitor the interpreters in the State.

Ms. Frantz asked if there was something in the statute that needs to be revised to better define what a certified interpreter is. Ms. Balderson said the statute is quite clear, but there is not enough staff to enforce it. She said there are three things to do:

1. Support expansion of the program to improve enforcement and compliance with the existing statute.
2. Provide short term training opportunities to interpreters interested in improving their skills.
3. Put pressure on the Board of Regents to establish an in-State interpreter program for a bachelor's degree. Lots of states have them; Nevada does not, but needs one very badly.

Ms. King said not having an in-State program is a problem and it's hard to retain interpreters.

Ms. Balderson said this has been brought to the Board of Regents before but there was no one putting pressure on them to follow through.

Mr. Rosenlund asked how does the SILC put pressure on them. Ms. Mason suggested coordinating it through the stakeholders (VR, ADSD, the IL community, etc.). The SILC is just one voice and many are needed. She said the objective may be to do outreach to encourage IL stakeholders to contact the Board of Regents. Ms. Balderson said that would be good, even a strongly worded letter would be helpful. Ms. Mason said the SILC could encourage the partners to send letters also.

Mr. Youngs expressed concern regarding the number of steps needed to create a new program at the college level. Ms. Balderson said she has people lined up to address those issues. Mr. Youngs then asked about funding and what department the program would be out of. Ms. Balderson said a plan is being developed, and at UNR the Medical School is on board and in Southern Nevada they are working with the Law School. She said when the plan is presented to the Board of Regents it needs to be supported by others.

Ms. Gerber-Winn said in the next two years the SILC needs to solidly state what is needed to properly support the interpreter registry. This would include regulation of the registry and educational opportunities. Ms. Balderson said they need to include short term training also.

Mr. Beardsley said VR often hires non-certified interpreters which causes difficulties in communication, the correct information is not getting across. There are no Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI's) in Nevada, with money being a factor. If there was a way for the State to help with costs those interested in being a CDI would be more likely to proceed and continue with the training. He said he asked VR if they could help with the cost and was told no. But, yesterday Mr. Beardsley spoke with Jack Mayes of the Disability Advocacy and Law Center and Mr. Mayes said VR would help with the cost. Why two different answers?

Mr. Rosenlund said there was a person in Northern Nevada who was going through the CDI training with funding help from the State, but that person moved out of state. Ms. Gerber-Winn said perhaps ADSD and VR needs better coordination on this.

Ms. Bonie asked if anyone wanted to state what the objective should be? Ms. Mason went back to what Ms. Gerber-Winn stated earlier, "improve the availability" instead of "expand," or take a different approach. Ms. Gerber-Winn added it is two things: 1) dealing with the corporations that employ unqualified interpreters and 2) getting certified interpreters.

Mr. Youngs asked how many complaints have been filed. Ms. Frantz said there have been many complaints. Ms. Balderson said she has two right now that will need to be investigated. She added that the problem in the deaf community is “how do I complain if I can’t communicate?” Mr. Gerber-Winn agreed with that statement.

Ms. Frantz put forth the following for the objective, “Improve the availability and use of certified interpreters in medical and legal settings.”

Mr. Rosenlund asked if specifying medical and legal settings is necessary. Ms. Bonie asked if just “certified interpreters” would be sufficient. Mr. Beardsley said to specify legal and medical is important, suggesting partnering a certified interpreter with a qualified interpreter to improve the latter’s skill. Ms. Bonie said to keep the medical and legal terminology. Mr. Beardsley added that certified interpreters are needed in any setting, including VR when discussing counseling, life skills and other topics.

Mr. Rosenlund asked what steps are going to be taken to accomplish this?

Ms. Bonie said this is where the discussion will be picked up at the next meeting.

Lisa Bonie, Chairperson
John Rosenlund, SILC Staff, ADSD

- IV. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

There were no comments from the public.

- V. **Confirm Dates of Future Meetings, March 6, 2014 and May 8, 2014 (For Possible Action)**

Lisa Bonie, Chairperson

Meeting dates of March 6 and May 8, 2014 were confirmed. Scheduling a meeting date in April to review the revised SPIL was suggested. Mr. Rosenlund was asked to poll the members for a possible date.

- VI. **Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

Lisa Bonie, Chairperson

Ms. Curry made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Zone seconded. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

NOTE: Items may be considered out of order. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based upon viewpoint

NOTE: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Diane Scully at (775) 687-0551 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at dmscully@adsd.nv.gov. Supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Road, #D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Diane Scully at (775) 687-0551 or by email at dmscully@adsd.nv.gov.

Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:

1. Aging and Disability Services Division, Carson City Office, 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706
 2. Aging and Disability Services Division, Las Vegas Office, 1860 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104
 3. Aging and Disability Services Division, Reno Office, 445 Apple Street, Suite 104, Reno, NV 89502
 4. Aging and Disability Services Division, Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104 Elko, NV 89801
 5. Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living 6039 El Dora St. H-8, N. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
 6. Disability Resources, 50 Greg St Suite 102, Sparks, NV 89431
 7. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 N. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701
 8. Desert Regional Center, 1391 So. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
 9. Sierra Regional Center, 605 South 21st St., Reno, NV 89431
 10. Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, 1865 Plumas St #2, Reno, NV 89509
 11. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
 12. NV Community Enrichment Programs, 2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
 13. Department of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
 14. Washoe ARC, 790 Sutro, Reno, NV 89512
 15. Rehabilitation Division, 1370 S. Curry St., Carson City, NV 89703
 16. Vocational Rehabilitation Job Connect, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502
- Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <http://aging.state.nv.us/>